

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed 11 FEBRUARY 2003. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration with an eye toward allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, and 9-20 are amended herein. The claim amendments are presented in a revised format per the USPTO's announcement 'Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted', signed 31 January 2002, and accordingly do not conform to the current reading of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, which Applicants understand has been waived. Accordingly, a complete listing of all claims that are, or were in the application, along with an appropriate status identifier, is provided above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims". Markings are provided on claims amended in the present amendment.

Support for the above claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings, for example at page 7, line 9 – page 8, line 2 and in FIGS. 7(a)-7(d).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations "the highest resolution coefficients" and "the lowest resolution coefficients" in claims 1, 11, and 14. Without admitting the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 14 such that the phrases "the highest resolution coefficients" and "the lowest resolution coefficients" do not appear.

The Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the one or more lowest resolution subbands" in claims 9-10. Without admitting the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 10 such that the limitation "the one or more lowest resolution subbands" does not appear.

Accordingly, Applicants trust that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-20 will be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections –35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Talluri et. al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,026,183).

Talluri discloses performing wavelet transformations by successive stages of decomposition of an image through filterings into four subbands (see Talluri, col. 11, lines 4-7). The transformations preferably only encode regions in the subbands which correspond to original regions of interest in the original image

(see Talluri, col. 11, lines 35-38). Regions of interest can be defined as areas corresponding to perceptually important images (see Talluri, col. 11, lines 35-38).

In contrast, Applicants' amended independent claims 1 and 14 recite "decomposing each of the plurality of the regions in the original image into one or more subbands each having a first boundary resolution" and "successively decomposing each of the plurality of the regions in a subband into one or more subbands, each having a second boundary resolution, wherein the second boundary resolution is lower than the first boundary resolution". Applicants' amended independent claim 11 recites "means for decomposing each of the plurality of the regions in the original image into one or more subbands each having a first boundary resolution" and "means for successively decomposing each of the plurality of the regions in a subband into one or more subbands, each having a second boundary resolution, wherein the second boundary resolution is lower than the first boundary resolution".

As the Examiner is aware, for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim (see M.P.E.P §2131).

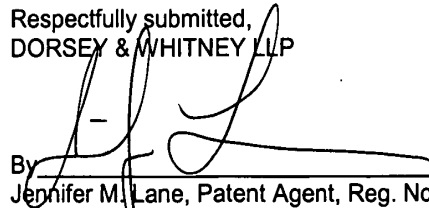
Applicants respectfully submit that Talluri does not disclose or suggest all limitations of Applicants claims 1-20. Talluri is silent with respect to decomposing images into subbands, where successive decompositions result in subbands having different boundary resolutions. The various decomposed subbands of Talluri's disclosure would each contain the same resolution information. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Talluri does not disclose all limitations of Applicants independent claims 1, 11, and 14 including decomposing a plurality of regions into one or more subbands having a first boundary resolution and successively decomposing a plurality of regions in a subband into one or more subbands each having a second boundary resolution, wherein the second boundary resolution is lower than the first boundary resolution.

Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 15-20 depend from and include all limitation of Applicants' independent claims 1, 11, and 14, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-20 over Talluri is improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification of such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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